

Arkansas Lawyers Form Organization

LITTLE ROCK.—(ANP)—J. R. Booker, prominent Little Rock lawyer, was named president of the Wonder State Bar association at the first meeting of Negro lawyers in Arkansas during the past ten years.

Theodore X. Jones, Pine Bluff and William A. Singfield, Little Rock, were elected vice presidents. W. Harold Flowers of Pine Bluff was named executive secretary and Scipio A. Jones, noted Little Rock attorney, was elected treasurer.

The organization voted in adopting a militant program to fight discriminatory legislation and to seek the passage of laws for the full enforcement of the rights and privileges of citizenship.

The organization voted to adopt the program of the National Bar association, upon the suggestion of its vice president, W. Harold Flowers. Action will be taken upon proposed amendments to the Arkansas constitution by the executive committee on Saturday. The amendments will be submitted to the people of Arkansas in the November elections. The organization called upon the voters of Arkansas to abolish the poll tax as a requisite for voting.

Members of the association are W. A. Singfield, J. R. Booker, Scipio A. Jones, and J. A. Hibbler, all of Little Rock; Theodore X. Jones and W. Harold Flowers of Pine Bluff; Wallace L. Purifoy, Jr., Forrest City; Joseph Atkins, Camden; G. H. Greene, Hot Springs, and I. H. Spears of Eldorado.

Lawyers-1938

Re-Elected Member Of Board Of Governors On Lawyers Club Of Cal.

Atty. Hugh Macbeth, Named
For Seventh Time, Receives
Highest Vote—Only Race
Man On Board.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 20—Attorney Hugh E. Macbeth of Los Angeles, Cal., was re-elected a member of the Board of Governors of the Lawyers Club of California at their annual meeting last week. Attorney Macbeth is the only man consistently re-elected yearly since the organization of the Board of Governors seven years ago,—and received the highest vote ever accorded any members of the board. No campaign was made for the office. He is the senior ranking member of the Board of Governors who, number fifteen, and is the only member of our group holding membership therein. The Lawyers' Club of California has a membership of 700. Attorney Macbeth is the son of Arthur L. Macbeth, photographer of Baltimore, Md. Photographer Macbeth is a life member of the Photographers' Association of America.

California.

Lawyers - 1938

D.C.

LAW STUDENTS IN MEET AT HOWARD

Justice Delivers Address At Johns Hopkins

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—The fourth annual eastern law students conference was held Saturday, March 19, at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The conference was attended by Acting Dean William E. Taylor of the School of Law, Howard University, Mr. W. Robert Ming, assistant professor of law, and the following young men and women of the student body of the law school:

Joel D. Blackwell, Harold R. Boulware, Lewis Barnes, Irvin Barnes, George E. Cannady, Clarence B. Clark, Roland D. Ealey, William C. Hueston, Jr., S. Laddie Ivey, Martin A. Martin, Cassandra E. Maxwell, Martin H. Mayfield, James H. Raby, Frank D. Reeves, John E. Royston, Robert W. Rucker, Jr., Thaddeus B. Rowe, James F. Spruill, Joseph C. Waddy, Thomas W. Wallace, Jr., James A. Washington, and Edward L. Wills.

The conference was sponsored by a committee which consisted of representatives of a number of law schools, as well as a number of clergymen. The sessions were open to practicing attorneys and prospective students of law, as well as to the faculty members and students of twenty-three law schools from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

The sessions were devoted to discussions of "The Changing Situation in the world and in scientific, religious, moral, and economic thinking and their significant bearing upon legal practice and leadership."

The topics presented dealt with questions of legal ethics, philanthropic service, and moral and spiritual values which are the major need of the day and the least emphasized in legal preparation.

In addition, an Open Forum was conducted during which speakers answered questions from the delegates.

The members of Howard University Faculty and the Howard students present, participated in all the sessions of the conference.



JUDGE ARMOND W. SCOTT in certain bounds, where clashes of the District of Columbia As he has become culturally and shown above in a recent photo-economically equal to the national graph in his robes of office. He standards, he has been called to was the principal speaker last act as Judge for larger interests week at an interracial meeting of and causes more far-reaching. the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Judge Scott traced the part played by the Negro in this country to the present. "As the Negro himself has advanced economically and culturally, he has become judicial arbiter within groups of citizens dwelling with-

away a stone, and we must believe and act as if this constant hammering at 'Equality' under the law,' will wear away injustice and enthrone right, truth and justice, possible only with peace and prosperity among all people."

Judge Scott is in his fourth year as a member of the judiciary and has made record on the bench. During the month of October he is presiding over the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch of the Court.

(By Garland Mackey)

Lawyers-1938

General

American Bar Association Is Urged To Admit Race Lawyers

NEW YORK, Sept. 22—The American Bar Association ought to admit Negro lawyers to membership or rename itself the "American White Bar Association," he intended to resign from the association "unless some action is soon taken so that Negroes may be admitted to membership."

upon the heels of a recent letter to the American Bar Association from Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, stating that

This was the assertion of J. C. Thomson of the law firm of Thomson and McGinty, 233 Broadway New York, in a recent letter to Frank J. Hogan, recently elected president of the A.B.A. The letter states:

"We call ourselves the American Bar Association and exclude our colored brethren. Should we not have the courage, particularly with an Irishman as President, to welcome colored brethren into the Association, or else change the name to the American White Bar Association?"

Mr. Thomson's letter follows upon the heels of a recent letter to the American Bar Association from Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, stating that he intended to resign from the association "unless some action is soon taken so that Negroes may be admitted to membership."

Tells U. S. Bar

Admit Negroes,

Or Change Name

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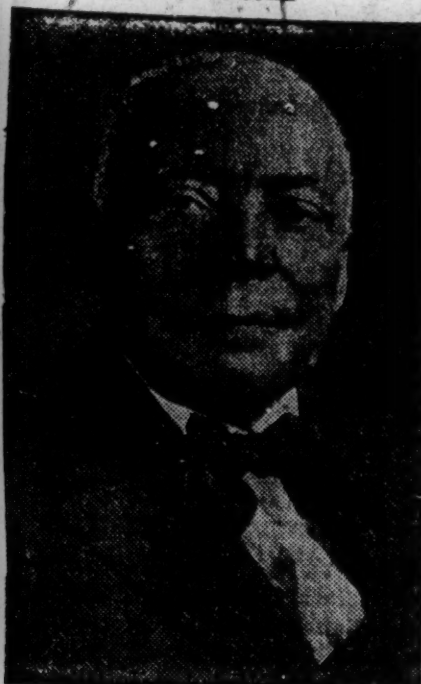
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Lawyers-1938

Illinois.

To Sail



HON. EDWARD H. MORRIS

Noted Chicago lawyer, who will leave next week for an extended trip in Australia. He will embark from San Francisco, Calif., on an English liner which observes the custom of honoring dignitaries. Attorney Morris is grand master of the Odd Fellows and when he boards the vessel, it will fly the colors of the Odd Fellows lodge in his honor as a passenger. As is the custom, British liners along the route will honor the colors.

FIRM OF NEGRO LAWYERS GETS HIGH RATING

An indication of efficient work of Negro lawyers and the splendid support given them by their people has just come to light as result of an investigation of the number of estates opened in the Probate Court of Cook county, Illinois (in which Chicago is located) during the past year.

Referring to the firm of Brown, Brown, Cyrus and Greene of Chicago, the Metropolitan Trust Company of Chicago recently wrote saying:

"You will be interested to learn that your firm was fifth in point of the number of estates opened in the Probate Court during the past year."

"The figures covering the period from December 15, 1936, through December 15, 1937, show that there was a total of 5,922 estates which were administered during this time. Of this number, wills were filed for 2,634, while administrators were appointed for 3,288 estates."

"While the impression seems to prevail among lawyers that a few law firms have the bulk of the Probate Court business, it is rather interesting to observe that it was quite well distributed among one hundred or more law firms and individual attorneys."

Regarding the matter, the members of this firm—consisting of Attorneys Sydney P. Brown, Oscar C. Brown, Bindley C. Cyrus, William H. Brown, Ernest A. Greene and Marcus A. Mahone—were greatly surprised to find the firm occupying such a high position in handling estates in the Probate Court of Cook County.

The plan of this firm is to develop specialist in several of the more important branches of the law. Attorney William H. Brown is the specialist in charge of probate practice.

Lawyers - 1938

National Bar Association.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 5, 1938

NEGRO LAWYERS

HEAR M'MULLAN

Attorney General Says State Should Assume Job of Uni- fied Law Enforcement

Durham, Aug. 4.—Harry McMullan, attorney general of North Carolina, tonight advocated centralization of criminal law-enforcement powers in a State department of justice, a proposal on which North Carolina will vote in November's general election, in an address before the National Bar Association.

"The important thing in unifying responsibility for criminal law enforcement, is the necessity of placing the burden upon the State, as a State, for making the best possible use of all the criminal law-enforcing agencies within its borders," McMullan told the Negro lawyers, assembled at North Carolina State College for Negroes.

After tracing the "alarming and disturbing" increase in crime in North Carolina and the nation, McMullan spoke of efforts for creation of departments of justice in many states, and of efforts in North Carolina which resulted in an act of the General Assembly for election on a constitutional amendment this year providing for a department of justice.

"In the coordinate criminal law enforcement program for the states, we visualize the opportunity of placing a definite responsibility on a single state agency," McMullan said.

Declaring that the criminal "is always well in advance of the statute books," McMullan listed typical ways in which a State department could do "invaluable work."

"It would be extremely valuable, both to the Federal government and to the states," he said in closing, "if a centralized State Department could coordinate its activities with those of the Federal government. . . . We have received invaluable aid from the Federal government, but we cannot assume that the Federal government will be willing to carry on indefinitely a responsibility which is not theirs, nor should the states expect or want them to do so."

Nation's Lawyers End Conference At Durham

Additional

Judgeships

Are Sought

8-13-38
Appointments Are
Urged By Nat'l
Bar Association

Staff Correspondence

DURHAM, N. C.—Speakers of note discussed a wide variety of topics dealing with the Negro lawyer and his part in the life of the nation during the three-day session of the 14th annual convention of the National Bar Association held here last week at the North Carolina College for Negroes.

William L. Houston, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, was re-elected president of the organization. The 1939 meeting will be held in New York.

SEEKS FEDERAL JUDGESHIPS

The association went on record condemning police brutality, violation of civil liberties, and anti-Semitism. It urged that more Negroes be given Federal judgeships, that a Negro be appointed to the Supreme Court, that more Negro attorneys be employed by government agencies, and voiced its support of the campaign to get equal salaries and equal educational opportunities.

The association unanimously adopted the report of the committee on legislation in which it proposed that Civil Service applications designate no race or color

and the applicants be fingerprinted instead of filing pictures as means of identification.

It also recommended that a bill drawn up which would open the armed forces of the United States to the Negro in proportion to the population, and that the Lindbergh law be amended so as to include lynchings, where the victims are carried across state lines.

HEATED DISCUSSION

A heated discussion followed reading of a proposed resolution by the Committee on Fact Finding and Resolutions, in which "certain Negro business enterprises in Durham" were scored for following "a policy of refusing available services of competent Negro lawyers in Durham and in other communities."

The resolution closed with the suggestion that copies be sent by registered mail to four specifically named local business organizations. It was the singling out by name of these groups that touched off the fireworks. Proponents of the measure claimed to have their facts from a letterhead of one of the institutions bearing the name of a prominent local white attorney as chief counsel.

COMPROMISE REACHED

The fact was more fully condemned and deplored when it was charged by a Durham lawyer that the attorney in question had "sold out the race to the lily-whites." Opposition speakers pointed out inaccuracies in the statement of conditions related in the resolution, and declared that it would be tactless and in bad taste to stigmatize these groups which were helping to entertain visiting lawyers.

A compromise was reached when Charles H. Houston proposed a substitute resolution urging all Negro business groups "to accord the colored lawyers a fair opportunity to demonstrate their ability to protect their interests and enjoy their patronage." This was adopted promptly by the convention. It did not name any specific institutions as offenders.

The convention was welcomed to Durham by Mayor W. F. Carr, Dr. C. C. Spaulding, and Dr. James E. Shepard. Responses were by E. Washington Rhodes, of Pennsylv-

vania and W. Avery Jones of North Carolina.

CRIME SITUATION DISCUSSED

Coordination of the state and federal agencies in better handling of the crime situation was advocated by Harry McMullan, attorney general of North Carolina, in an address delivered at the public meeting held Thursday night. The address was one of a number delivered during the opening day of the convention. Judge James S. Watson of the New York City municipal court appeared on the same program.

The attorney general painted a rather dark picture of the steady growth of crime in the United States and quoted statistics to bear out his statement that conditions have grown steadily worse. Mr. McMullan said, "Crime has far exceeded any increase which has been known in any other generation of this country."

JUDGE WATSON SPEAKS

Speaking on the "Responsibility of the Negro Lawyer to his People" Judge Watson said, "the duty of the Negro as a lawyer is essentially not different from that of any other lawyer. It is for him to be the best lawyer that is in him to be; to administer justice; to require of all men that they live honestly, obey the law and give unto each his due."

On the question of civil liberties Judge Watson said, "We must see that the magnificent facade of the American constitution has a firm structure of reality behind it." He asserted that the constitution has not been real for the Negro, and commented that as long as court decrees are necessary to enforce the constitution, Negro lawyers must be prepared to obtain such decrees.

Continuing he said, "Young men and women must be encouraged to prepare themselves for service in all the fields of human endeavor, and it is for us to open wide the gates of all schools and universities so that from the race will come intellectual achievement which may challenge and demand recognition of the world."

Judge Watson was optimistic about the future. He said that Negroes ask only that their liberty be re-

spected, their equality preserved and that they have the opportunity to give their best to America and the world.

MUST LEAD WAY

Similar was the plea of the president, William L. Houston, in his annual address. "This association," he declared, "the only organized force in this land that is capable of protecting our people, must lead the way out of the darkened Valley of Oppression up to the heights."

Mr. Houston in his message discussed the objectives of the organization and reported on the progress being made toward their attainment. He cited the place that race lawyers have attained in legal circles and described how the Negro through courage and determination entered into the legal profession despite the fact they "were unwelcome recruits." Finally they attained the coveted and desired status for which they fought, pointing to the admittance of Negroes into the membership of the National Lawyers Guild as proof for the statement.

DUTY TO HELP COUNTRY

"It is our task to help make this country the land of our dreams."

"To make it such," President Houston continued, "you and I must constantly stand by the unguarded gates and beat off the foes that would rob the weak and the helpless of the justice and the rights vouchsafed to all in this enchanted land." He also reminded the members of the association that they have an important and noble role to play in the life of the nation and that it is up to them not to fail those who turn to them for help.

Earlier in the day, Dean M. T. Van Hecke of the law school at the University of North Carolina, spoke on "The Lawyer and the Administration of Justice." He told the association that they should take a constructive responsibility, with the judges for improvement in the administration of justice.

B. V. Lawson, Jr., of the District of Columbia bar discussed "The Use of the Boycott and Picket to Increase Employment of Negroes."

SLUM CLEARANCE

A disproportionate number of Negroes are among the ill-housed third of the nation of which President Roosevelt has spoken, and it is a responsibility of the Negro lawyer to work for "the elimination of this devastating blight," Dr. Robert C. Weaver, assistant administrator of the USHA, told the association.

"The members of this association," Dr. Weaver said, "need not be reminded of the terrible slum conditions under which so great a number of our people are compelled to live. You need not be told of the fearful price we pay for such living conditions in terms of delinquency and crime of stunted childhood, of ill health and needless death."

"You know what the slums are doing to the stability of our homes, you know what the slums are doing to the youth of our race; and you know the high costs the cities must pay in police protection and in health and hospital services for these slum areas. It is your obligation as well as your opportunity to work with every socially minded person, black or white, lawyer or layman, for the elimination of this devastating blight."

Dr. Eunice Hutton Carter, assistant district attorney of New York County, spoke on "Improving Professional Standing." Dr. Carter told the association that they must at all times keep abreast of the times, and to give their best service to all clients at reasonable fees.

WARNS OF PROPAGANDA

Miss Elsie Austin, assistant attorney general of Ohio, who spoke on "Combating Propaganda as to Criminality and other Anti-Negro Propaganda," declared that "anti-Negro propaganda looms as one of the gravest and most fraught-with-danger problems of our day. There was never an age when the adverse effects of hate inspired propaganda were more in evidence than today.

"In seeking to remedy this condition we should start first with the public and seek to use all responsive and sympathetic opinion we can develop."

More active participation by members of the Negro bar in organizations and movements to preserve civil liberties was urged by Albert C. Gilbert, president of the Harlem Lawyers association.

"The bar associations have done practically nothing in this field as organized groups," Mr. Gilbert said, "and seem not yet to have realized that the lawyers owe the community something more than that for which the community is able to pay."

Other speakers during the convention included Z. A. Looby, dean of Kent Law School, Richard E. Westbrook of the Chicago bar; John A. Davis, of the Missouri bar; and Mortimer Ruemer, secretary, National Lawyers Guild.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Officers for the coming year elected at the final meeting of the association are: William L. Houston, president; Albert C. Gilbert, vice president; Miss Elsie Austin, vice president; W. H. Flowers, vice president; George Evans, secretary; Isadore Letcher, assistant secretary; and G. Edward Dickerson, treasurer.

Many social courtesies were extended to the delegates to the convention. Among them was a dance given at the Algonquin Tennis Club by the Old North State Bar association, a floor show and dance at the gymnasium of the college, August 5, a luncheon given by the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, and a barbecue at the conclusion of the convention. Many house parties were in evidence during the weekend for the entertainment of the visitors.

Lawyer Gets \$2,000 for N.C. Client

SMITHFIELD, N.C. — M. D. White of Goldsboro, first colored lawyer to address a jury here in eight years, won a verdict of \$2000 on Friday for Sam Williams, administrator for the estate of his son, Grady.

Mr. Williams, whose son was killed by an Atlantic Coast Line train at a crossing, asked for \$20,000 for his son's life and \$380 for the loss of the auto.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
October 4, 1938

NEGRO LAWYER ARGUES ACTION IN COURT HERE

For the first time in eight years, a Negro lawyer addressed a Johnston county jury when M. D. White of the Goldsboro bar appeared for Sam Williams, administrator for his son, Grady Williams, Negro, who was killed by a train.

The case, tried before Judge Clawson L. Williams who is holding a two weeks term of Superior Civil Court here, resulted in the jury returning a verdict of \$2,000 damages against the Atlantic Coast Line railroad. The suit was for \$20,000 for the death of Williams and \$380 for the loss of an automobile.

Young Williams was killed instantly at the grade crossing at the depot here when a fast Atlantic Coast Line train struck and demolished Williams' car. The grade crossing has since been eliminated by the \$125,000 underpass recently opened at the depot.

Appearing with White for Williams were Kenneth Royall of Goldsboro and E. J. Wellons of Smithfield. The railroad was represented by the Abell and Shepard law firm and Charles G. Rose

of Fayetteville.

In the case of Samuel Sanders against J. D. Parker and H. M. Barnes, the court withdrew the jury and ordered a mistrial. A compromise of the case was settled out of court. The action was brought by a testamentary ward against his testamentary guardians.

In the case of Irma P. Hinnant against R. M. Hinnant, an order was given enabling plaintiff 15 days to amend her complaint. Time was allowed for the defendant to file an answer.

After hearing the pleadings read in the case of J. W. Ellis and W. S. Ellis against R. L. Pittman and his surety, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. and D. T. Crawford and his surety, Employers Liability Assurance Corporation, the court dismissed the action. The amount involved in the case was \$1,446.54.

In the case of Ernest Clifton Pratt against Osborn Wilder and wife, Geneva W. Wilder, a consent judgment was entered by which neither would recover anything and both plaintiff and defendants would bear the costs incurred.

W. P. Holland and wife appeared their case against Walter L. Whittington to the State Supreme Court. The court issued an order sustaining the demurrer filed by the defendants.

A judgment of non-suit was taken by the plaintiff in the case of George W. Foster against Jesse Eason.

Durham, N. C. Morning Herald
November 5, 1938

APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT ENTERED BY NEGRO'S ATTORNEY

Jury Deliberates Less Than Hour Before Upholding State Bar Ruling

A superior court jury yesterday upheld a ruling of the state bar

council barring P. A. Escoffery, Durham Negro attorney, from the practice of law on grounds of unethical conduct.

R. O. Everett, attorney for Escoffery, filed notice of appeal to the supreme court and Judge Marshall T. Spears gave him 90 days to prepare his case. Judge Spears denied a motion to set aside the verdict.

The jury, after deliberating less than an hour, sided against the attorney on all three issues. The issues answered "yes" by the jury were as follows:

1. Did Phillip A. Escoffery, in his capacity as attorney at law, receive from his client, Robert Lee Jeffers, the sum of \$350 and detain without a bona fide claim thereto the said sum or any part thereof.
2. Did Phillip A. Escoffery, in his capacity as attorney at law receive from his client, Robert Lee Jeffers, the sum of \$3.75 and detain without a bona fide claim thereto the said sum.
3. Was Phillip A. Escoffery guilty of any willful deceit or fraud involving unprofessional conduct in his dealings with his client, Robert Lee Jeffers.

The case against Escoffery was prosecuted by Edward L. Cannon, secretary and special prosecutor for the state bar, and B. W. Parham, of Oxford. The case was first heard here last January by a special trial committee of three members of the bar. The committee found Escoffery guilty of the charges and the state bar council later affirmed its decision.

Judge Spears ruled yesterday that Escoffery may continue the practice of law pending the final decision of the supreme court. The case will not be argued until late this winter and the supreme court is not expected to hand down a ruling before spring.

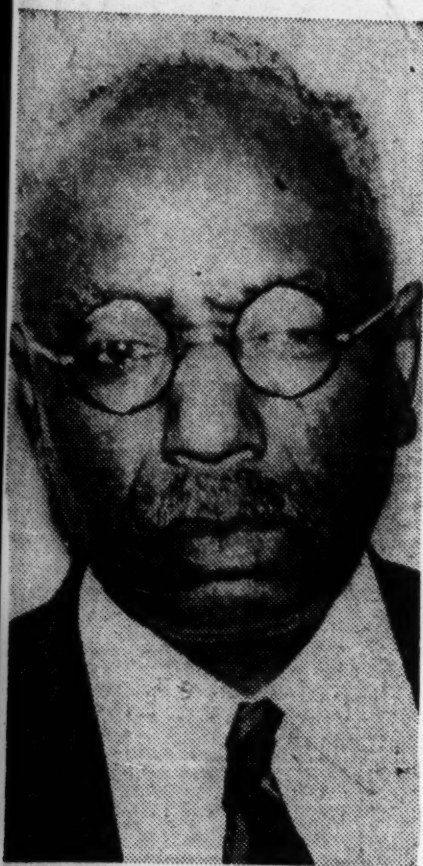
The state bar accused Escoffery of failing to account for \$350 entrusted to him by Mariah Marrow and Robert Jeffers, Negroes, for the purpose of obtaining an administratrix bond for the Marrow woman. Escoffery, it was contended secured a signed bond in lieu of a cash bond and retained the \$350. The attorney claimed he was instructed by Robert Carey, New York attorney, to hold the money to indemnify himself against loss.

The Escoffery case is the first of two disbarment actions on appeal in superior court. B. Ray Olive, another Durham attorney, accused of cancelling a judgment without the authority of his client, the Newport Manufacturing Co., former Durham lumber concern, is scheduled to face trial next Monday. The state bar council found Olive guilty and suspended his license for 12 months.

Lawyers - 1938

Rhode Island.

**MASTER IN
CHANCERY**



William A. Heathman, distinguished dean of the legal profession in Providence, R.I., is the first man of his race to be elected by the judges of the Superior court as a master in chancery. There are only 33 in the entire state. They hold powers almost as great as those of the judges. He has seen 40 years' service at the bar.—Billy Rowe photo.

S. C. Admits Negro Woman To Bar

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov.—Miss Cassandra Maxwell, of Orangeburg, S. C., held the distinction of being the first Negro woman in this state to be admitted to the bar.

Miss Maxwell, approved by the state examining board on November 3, is a graduate of Howard University and may practice law in her home state.

Her father, the late John M. Maxwell, was a well known Orangeburg merchant.

Woman Lawyer Takes Examination For Bar In South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Something new in South Carolina's legal history was written Wednesday when a young Negro woman presented herself in the Supreme Courtroom before the law examining board and took the seat assigned her to stand examination.

The young lady was Miss Cassandra Maxwell, daughter of the late John M. Maxwell, merchant of Orangeburg, S. C., who completed her law course at Howard University and may practice here in her home state.

Never before in South Carolina's history, so far as could be learned, had a Negro woman taken the test. In the courtroom with her taking the tests were two Negro men. The examining board makes it a practice not to give out names of those applying for admission to the bar until the results are announced and then it only announces the names of those who have passed and are admitted to practice.

Besides the three Negroes there were nine whites taking the examinations.

Lawyers - 1938

West Virginia
8

After Counsel in \$12,000,000 Property Case

By WILLIAM PICKENS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (ANP)

—T. G. Nutter is at the present time chief counsel in a record-breaking land and property case.

—Thomas W. Cook vs. Jennie Lewis et al—involving 100,000 acres of land and bearing lands and a valuation of at least \$12,000,000.

And in the fight over this twelve million dollars, all the principals are whites—the only colored being the colored attorneys, Mr. Nutter and his associates.

Had Precedent

Why did the whites of Louisville, Ky., who wanted to attack this estate (or these estates) employ colored attorneys? In the first place, the complainants observed that two colored attorneys of Chicago, S. A. Watkins and James White, had successfully conducted a smaller case on the same principles in one of the Southern States.

In the second place (take it from me), all the whites know that when large money interests are involved, they can trust competent colored lawyers.

Too Many Connections

The whites may have too many 'connections' with the opposing interests.

Why, the Banker's Trust (of New Jersey) has over two million dollars invested in it, on bonds.

Other defendants include the Kanawha Bank and Trust Company, the Kanawha Hocking Coal and Coke Company, other coal companies and gas companies, and the financial giant of West Virginia, John L. Dickerson.